

N. P. Cope.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF FAR EASTERN AND  
SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
SEATTLE 5, WASHINGTON

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Seattle 2, Washington.

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"Dear Mr. [ ]

I am very ashamed indeed that I have not written for almost two months and confined myself to a brief Christmas card but the matter is that I was very busy and, second, there was nothing new. Pas de nouvelle, bonne nouvelle, but in reality it is very tedious if one does not know what to write about. Now I must sit at-home because I have caught cold and had such a pain in my chest that I already was prepared to learn that I have got pneumonia but the doctor told me that there was nothing particular. We have much snow and two days ago we had the worst blizzard in fifty years. Now traffic is jammed and the streets are covered with snow. I was very busy as I had to write an article for Mr. Offie and, besides, I am finishing my grammar started in Washington D.C. I have also written a review of several books, among them "Outer Mongolia" by Friters with a silly preface by Owen Latimore.

Christmas in Seattle was rather busy a time. I had to attend many parties and the result is that instead of relax after three months of hard work at the University I got even more tired than I was before. I am glad this is over.

Mr. [ ] whom you recommended to me is a very nice fellow. He studies Mongol industriously and has made some progress. Mr. [ ] is very nice and I like him very much.

From my boys many letters have come. The latest development is that they got simultaneously a paper from the London office of the International Refugee organization with the offer to help them to get a permission to travel to this country, and a paper concerning my younger boy which contains an offer of a scholarship at a Scottish university. Now there is a dilemma: if they get their permission to travel to the U.S. soon the scholarship must be rejected as it would be useless to accept it and leave the country in less

han one rear. But , on the other hand, one never knows ar. maybe there will not be a permission and in this case the scholarship must not be rejected. But I am glad that there is a motion and things do not rest in the same place.

Recently I learnt that I had done wisely when I left Washington ,D.C. as my job here would have been cancelled if I had not come in September. The matter is that the university must save money and, therefore, all vacant jobs have been abolished ,and there will not be anything this or next year. No new teachers will be taken for at least one-two years.

I learnt also from people whose names will not be named here as I promised to be discreet that the university of Harvard had almost succeeded in getting me to lecture on Mongolian but Owen Lattimore had intervened and spoiled everything. I never knew that he dislikes me. But this is not impossible as he considers himself a great expert on the Far East and is very jealous. Besides, he is a well known friend of a certain power.

Thus you see although there is not much what I can tell you the letter is not completely bare of news.

With kind regards  
Very sincerely yours,

*N. Payne*

*P.S.  
Please transmit my best  
regards to Mr. [ ]*

*W.F.*